

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16025 261730Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

SAB-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-20 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 093482

R 261524Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4847

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 16025

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJECT: PRAVDA COMMENTARY AND SOVIET LECTURER POSITIVE
ON ME PEACE CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF GENEVA ME
PEACE CONFERENCE CONTINUES POSITIVE LINE ON PROSPECTS
FOR SETTLEMENT. PRAVDA COMMENTARY DECEMBER 26 SAYS
OPENING MEETING IS IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARD
SETTLEMENT BUT QUESTIONS WHETHER ISRAEL READY TO
SEIZE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
LECTURER DECEMBER 24 SAID ME CRISIS SHOWED IMPORTANCE
OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., STRENGTHENED THE
SOVIET UNION'S POSITION IN THE ME, AND ENABLED ARABS
TO REVERSE A DEAD END SITUATION. LECTURER ALSO SAID SOVIETS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16025 261730Z

ARE NEGOTIATING ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH

SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER PERSIAN GULF STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. REPORTAGE AND COMMENTARY IN SOVIET PRESS HAS PLAYED
OPENING PHASE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE POSITIVELY.

COVERAGE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY FACTURAL, INCLUDING SUMMARY
OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS IN GENEVA AND REPORTS OF
HIS MEETINGS WITH GROMYKO. NOTABLY ABSENT FROM COVERAGE,
HOWEVER, WAS REPORT OF GROMYKO'S MEETING WITH EBAN
DESPITE FULL COVERAGE OF FORMER'S MEETINGS WITH OTHER
CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS.

3. PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY DEMCHENKO DECEMBER 26
ILLUSTRATES SOVIET PRESS ATTITUDE: CONVOCATON OF
ME PEACE CONFERENCE IN ITSELF IS IMPORTANT STEP
TOWARD POLITICAL SETTLEMENT; PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO BEGIN USEFUL DIALOGUE; BUT ISRAELI
ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS OUTSIDE CONFERENCE RAISE
QUESTION WHETHER ISRAEL READY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
"REAL PROSPECT" OF PEACE OR WHETHER, SUPPORTED BY
FOREIGN REACTIONARY CIRCLES, ISRAEL WILL PURSUE
FURTHER POLICY OF RELYING ON FORCE. DEMCHENKO WARNS
THAT LATTER COURSE WOULD LEAD TO "SERIOUS AGGRAVATION"
OF ME SITUATION.

4. PUBLIC LECTURER AT MOSCOW RAILROAD WORKERS' CLUB
DECEMBER 24 WAS ALSO OPTIMISTIC THAT CONFERENCE MIGHT
BRING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. AFTER NOTING IN STANDARD
VEIN THAT ME CONFLICT ENDED BELIEF IN ISRAELI INVINCIBILITY
AND DEMONSTRATED INCREASED ARAB UNITY, LECTURER
ALSO ASSERTED THAT ME CONFLICT HAD STRENGTHENED
SOVIET POSITION IN ME. AS EVIDENCE HE NOTED THAT EVEN
FAISAL SENT WARM GREETINGS TO SOVIET UNION ON NOVEMBER 7
AND THAT TALKS ARE NOW GOING ON CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND SAUDI
ARABIA AS WELL AS OTHER PERSIAN GULF STATES WITH WHICH
SOVIETS HAVE NO RELATIONS. ON SETTLEMENT ITSELF
LECTURER SAID SOVIETS BELIEVE ISRAEL WILL EVENTUALLY
HAVE TO ACCEPT SC RESOLUTIONS 338 AND 242. HOWEVER,
ME SITUATION REMAINS CRITICAL. U.S. BELIEVES GENEVA
TALKS WILL LAST LONG TIME, BUT SOVIETS BELIEVE THEY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 16025 261730Z

MUST MOVE MORE QUICKLY IF RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES IS TO
BE AVOIDED.

5. COMMENT: WE FIND LECTURER'S EFFORT TO SHOW THAT ME
CONFLICT HAS RAISED SOVIET STOCK IN ME RATHER STRAINED;
THE EVIDENCE HE CITES -- THAT SOVIETS ARE CURRENTLY
HOLDING TALKS WITH SAUDIS TOWARD ESTABLISHING
RELATIONS-- MAY NOT BE PARTICULARLY PERSUASIVE FOR A

SOVIET AUDIENCE. IT DOES, HOWEVER, CAST AN INTERESTING
LIGHT ON RUMORS AND DENIALS WHICH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING
ABOUT A CLOSER SAUDI-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP. ALTHOUGH SOVIET
PRESS HAS NEGLECTED TO REPORT GROMYKO-EBAN MEETING, THE LECTURER
BRAGGED ABOUT IT BY WAY OF SHOWING, IN ANSWER TO QUESTION,
THAT USSR DOES NOT NEED ROMANIA AS AN INTERMEDIARY WITH ISRAEL.
SOMMERLATTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW16025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973127/aaaaaeuu.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <06-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRAVDA COMMENTARY AND SOVIET LECTURER POSITIVE ON ME PEACE CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005